A0400-1

The Aluminum Situation

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS — SEPTEMBER 1990

INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS DOWN 4.3 PERCENT FROM 1989

Industry net shipments for seven months of 1990, totaling 9,247 million pounds, decreased 4.3 percent from 1989 shipments of 9,658 million pounds.

Domestic shipments for seven months of 1990, totaling 7,744 million pounds, were down 7.6 percent from the previous year total of 8,382 million pounds.

U.S. exports of aluminum ingot and mill products, totaling 1,503 million pounds during the first seven months, increased 17.8 percent from the 1989 total of 1,276 million pounds.

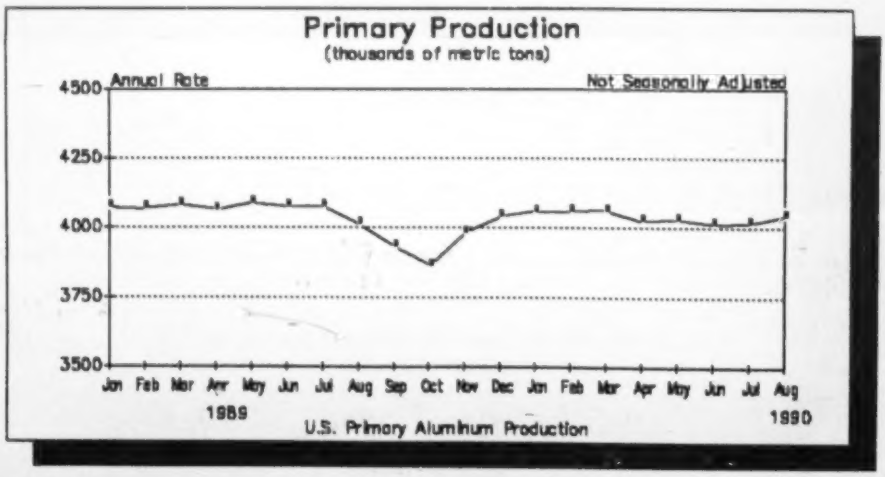
THRU JULY 1990

	1990 7 Mos.	1989 7 Mos.	% Change
Mill Products	7,539	7,755	-2.8
Ingot	1,709	1,903	-10.2
Total	9,247	9,658	-4.3
Less Exports	1,503	1,276	17.8
Domestic Total	7,744	8,382	-7.6

Figures in Millions of Pounds
Source: Bureau of the Census
U.S. Department of Commerce

PRIMARY PRODUCTION DAILY RATE ESTIMATED AT 11,076 METRIC TONS

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged an estimated 11,076 metric tons daily during August 1990. This compares with an average of 10,996 metric tons a day in August 1989 and 11,004 metric tons a day in July 1990. The annual rate of production in August 1990 was 4,042,858 metric tons compared with 4,013,387 metric tons in August 1989 and 4,016,601 metric tons in July 1990. Estimated production in August 1990 was 343,366 metric tons.

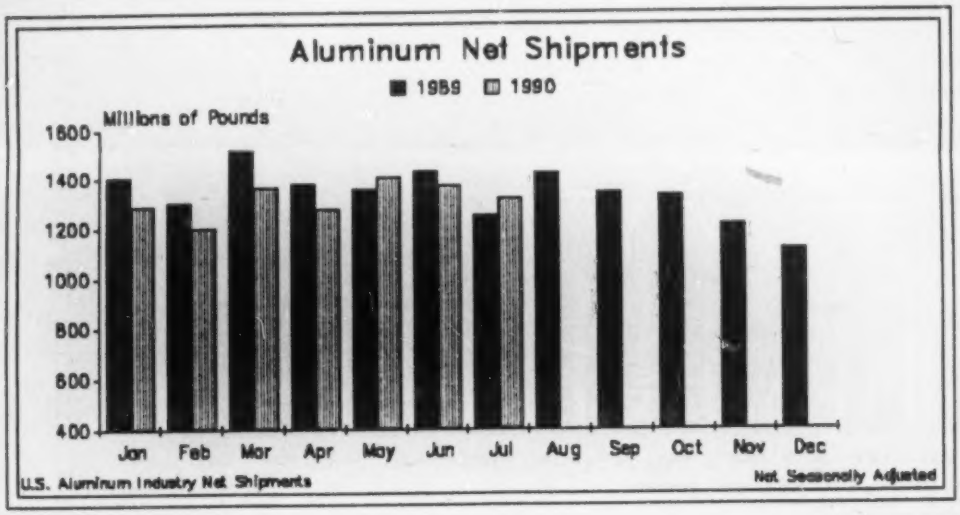


This report contains information reported to the Association by the domestic producers, which is aggregated by the Association. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

The Aluminum Situation
The Aluminum Association
900 19th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone:(202) 862-5100

JULY INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS REPORTED AT 1,322 MILLION POUNDS

Industry net shipments for July 1990 were reported at 1,322 million pounds, down 3.9 percent from revised June shipments of 1,376 million pounds. Year-to-date, total industry shipments totaled 9,247 million pounds, a decline of 4.3 percent from a previous year total of 9,658 million pounds. Domestic shipments for seven months of 1990, totaling 7,744 million pounds, were down 7.6 percent from the previous year total of 8,382 million pounds. U.S. exports totaled 1,503 million pounds during the first seven months, an increase of 17.8 percent from the same period of 1989.

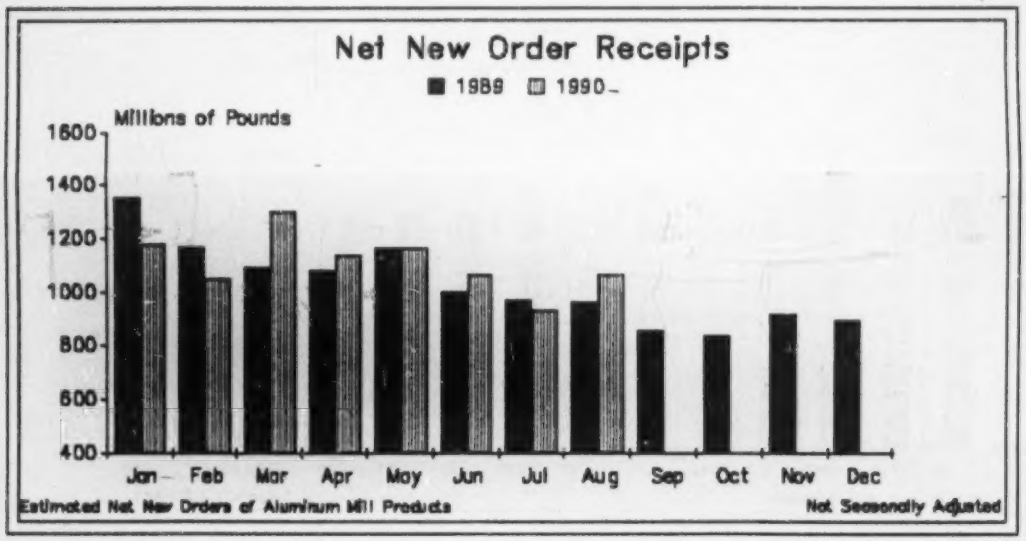


NET SHIPMENTS (Millions of Pounds)	1990 July	1989 July	1990 7 Mos.	1989 7 Mos.	% Change 1990 vs 1989
Sheet	610.9	606.9	4,259.0	4,403.9	-3.3
Plate	17.5	25.3	149.9	184.8	-18.9
Foil	70.0	69.9	539.0	518.6	3.9
Rod,Bar & Wire	20.9	13.3	183.7	126.2	45.6
Elec. Conductor	48.4	53.7	354.9	414.3	-14.3
Extruded Shapes,Tube	201.3	212.9	1,516.2	1,582.0	-4.2
Powder & Paste	8.4	7.1	55.6	53.8	3.3
Forgings & Impacts	13.0	12.8	92.1	95.1	-3.1
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	61.8	46.8	388.5	376.2	3.3
Total Mill Products	1,052.2	1,048.8	7,538.8	7,754.8	-2.8
Ingot	270.1	203.2	1,708.6	1,903.3	-10.2
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	1,322.3	1,252.0	9,247.4	9,658.1	-4.3
Exports	176.7	182.0	1,503.3	1,276.2	17.8
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	1,145.6	1,069.9	7,744.1	8,382.0	-7.6

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce - CIR M33-D
Note: Cummulative data includes revisions for previous periods
(a) Not included in product data above.

AUGUST NEW ORDER RECEIPTS JUMP 14.2 PERCENT

Estimated net new order receipts of aluminum mill products for the month of August totaling 1,064 million pounds, increased 14.2 percent from the previous month total of 933 million pounds. Year-to-date, net new orders totaling 8,904 million pounds increased 1.1 over the eight month 1989 total of 8,803 million pounds.



ORDER RECEIPTS (Millions of Pounds)	1990 August	1989 August	1990 8 Mos.	1989 8 Mos.	% Change 1990 vs 1989
Sheet & Plate, Other	359.3	293.2	2,985.5	2,922.0	2.2
Can Stock (a)	302.8	261.2	2,695.9	2,613.9	3.1
Foil	76.3	88.7	700.9	680.2	3.0
Bar, Rod & Wire	37.7	34.3	360.8	279.9	28.9
Electrical Conductor	62.3	52.5	370.1	457.9	-19.2
Extruded Shapes & Tube	197.6	214.2	1,607.1	1,670.2	-3.8
Powder & Paste	10.9	8.1	86.8	75.5	15.0
Forgings & Impacts	17.3	12.5	96.9	103.6	-6.5
Total Mill Products	1,064.2	964.7	8,904.0	8,803.2	1.1

Source: The Aluminum Association estimates total industry orders (including orders for imports) based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available on a subscription basis.
Note: Cummulative data includes revisions for previous periods.
(a) Domestic only. Orders for exports of Can Stock are included in Sheet and Plate, Other.

PRODUCER INVENTORIES UP 89 MILLION POUNDS

Producer inventories increased in July 1990 to a reported total of 4,000 million pounds. This represents an 89 million pound increase from the revised June level of 3,911 million pounds.

Month-End Aluminum Producer Inventories
(Millions of Pounds)

	Total	Ingot	Scrap	All Other
May	3,907	1,364	533	2,010
June	3,911r	1,332r	579	2,000r
July	4,000	1,392	597	2,012

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

CUSTOMER INVENTORIES REPORTED AT 34.1 DAYS

Respondents to the Association's Customer Inventory Survey reported that their Average Days Inventory as of July 31, 1990 was 34.1, up 2.7 percent from inventories reported at the end of June.

Month-End Aluminum Customer Inventories
(Average Number of Days)

May	32.6
June	33.2
July	34.1

Source: Aluminum Association - Customer Inventory Position Survey

---

U.S. IMPORTS & EXPORTS (Millions of Pounds)		1990 July	1989 July	1990* 7 Mos.	1989 7 Mos.	% Change 1990 vs 1989
Imports	Mill Products	81.1	72.1	608.8	576.4	5.6
	Ingot	226.2	158.6	1,359.5	1,271.5	6.9
	Total	307.3	230.7	1,968.3	1,847.8	6.5
	Scrap (+ dross)	46.8	38.3	364.7	274.1	33.1
	Grand Total	354.1	269.0	2,333.0	2,122.0	9.9
Exports	Mill Products	84.8	83.6	634.8	671.5	-5.5
	Ingot	91.9	98.5	868.5	604.6	43.6
	Total	176.7	182.0	1,503.3	1,276.2	17.8
	Scrap	73.7	95.1	628.4	730.0	-13.9
	Grand Total	250.4	277.2	2,131.8	2,006.2	6.3
Net Imports		103.7	-8.1	201.3	115.8	73.8

Source: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.
(*) Data may not be comparable to previous years due to changes in trade classifications effective January 1, 1989